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ionar News.—The City and Suburban News Burea of the United Pages and New York Associate Pages at 21 to 24 Ann attent. All information an documents for public use instantly disseminated to the press of the whole country.

An Elective Delegate from Alaska

The bill to authorize Hoke SMITH to appoint a Delegate from Alaska to the House of Representatives appears to be dead. No one has had a word to say in its behalf since we pointed out the objections to permitting an appointed officer to participate in the debates of Congress.

A better scheme for the representation of Alaska is provided for in another bill just introduced by Mr. JOSEPH A. SCHANTON of the Eleventh Pennsylvania district. It gives Alaska a Territorial Delegate in Congress with the same rights, privileges, and emoluments as are enjoyed by other Delegates to the House of Representatives from the organized Territories of the United States. He is to be elected by citizens of the United States who have been actual residents of Alaska for four months prior to the election.

In view of the increased and constantly growing importance of the country which we acquired from Russia in 1867, it seems only fair that it should be put on the same footing as other Territories in respect to the ability of the inhabitants to make known their wants to Congress and through Congress to the nation at large. The Territorial officers, who are appointed by the President, are not representatives of the people of Alaska, but are simply the deputies of the national Government at Washington. In suggesting legislation for the Alaskan Territory they may express the popular will or may not. An elected Delegate will be in a different position. He will be independent of the Federal Administration, and through him the people of the country can learn something about Alaskan interests as they appear to the Alaskans.

One elective Delegate to the House of Representatives from Alaska will be more useful than forty agricultural experiment stations, such as some flower and fruitloving Congressmen want to establish within sound of

"The wolf's long how! on Conslaska's shore."

If You Want Peace, Prepare for War It is more than a month since President CLEVELAND put forth his memorable message in reference to the attempt of Great Britain to confiscate the soil of an American republic under cover of a boundary dispute. In that document it was made known that if the proposed Commission should report in favor of Venezuela's title to the debatable land, we should not, of course, assume that the decision was binding on the other party to the controversy, but we should call upon England either to submit the claim of British Guiana to a peaceful and impartial tribunal, or face the grim arbitrament of war. Both Houses of Congress by Immense majorities approved the declaration of the Executive; but how much have they since accomplished toward that fortification of our scaports and that strengthening of our army and navy, which would be needed should the British Government, persisting in a wrong-headed course, proclaim a preference for war to peace?

Will procrastination and neglect in a matter of transcendent moment be jus tifled upon the plea that Lord SALISBURY is believed to be disposed to recede from the stiff-necked position taken in his despatch to Mr. OLNEY, and to submit to arbitration the title to the whole of the territory in dispute between Venezuela and British Guiana? For such a bellef there is not an atom of foundation. It is true that some newspaper representatives of the British Radicals and English Catholics, and also the British Arbitration Society, which includes some Liberal Unionists, have shown sufficient common sense and respect for equity to say that if the claims of British Guiana are just, they can suffer no barm through reference to a judicial tribunal. But, as regards voting power in the House of Commons, the English Catholics are a negligible factor, and the British Radicals have shrank into a discredited and helpless remnant. Nor is there as yet a single sign that the impotent Opposition will receive any considerable accessions from the Dissident Liberal wing of the dominant coalition. Neither of the official chiefs of the Liberal Unionists, the Duke of DEVON-SHIRE and Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, has uttered a word that savors of disapproval of Lord SALISBURY'S attitude. On the other hand, Mr. A. J. BALFOUR, the nephew of the Prime Minister and the leader of the enormous Ministerial majority in the House of Commons, made last week at Manchester a speech, which was significant and even ominous through its studious omission of a hint tha the British Government might modify in the slightest degree its refusal to submit to arbitration one square inch of the disputed territory east of the sham Schomburgk line. Commenting on this speech, the London newspapers, friendly to Lord Salisbuny. drew the obvious deduction that it offered no encouragement to the diplomatic amateurs who are trying to get the Americans to believe that we are wrong, and will end by knuckling down."

at a time when the English advocates of peace were hanging breathless on his words, s not the only evidence we have that Lord SALISBURY has no intention of retreating a hair's breadth from the ground on which he planted himself in the note to Mr. OLNEY. Since the publication of Mr. CLEVELAND's message on Dec. 17, the British Admiralty and the British War Office have bent their utmost energies to the attainment of perfect readiness for a contest with the United States. While the peaceat-sny-price trucklers in New York have sought to cripple the sinews of our Administration, and, while the uninfluential British Radicals have been contemptuously allowed to babble about their "kinsmen beyond sea," the work of belligmuda, Halifax, and St. John's, Newfoundeven good reason to opine that, in her sud-

The portentous reticence of Mr. BALFOUR.

ment, England had more alms then one, and that, while pretending a defiance to Germany, she was really oberishing the foolish hope that she could terrify United States.

In the mean time what have we been doing? How much more ready are we today for defence or for aggression than we were on Dec. 17? What has Congress accomplished to make good by deeds the splendid outburst of patriotic ardor with which it sustained the President? What has it done with the military and naval bills framed to enable us to carry out the lofty tutelary rôle, for which events have ripened us, and to which in the eyes of the world we are henceforth committed? How will Congress justify its stewardship to the American people, if, amid party rivalries and bickerings, it shall lose sight of the grave contingency, which inevitably will confront us, should the Commission named by Mr. CLEVELAND report in favor of Venezuela's title to the territory in dispute?

We repeat that, should such a report be made, there is not a particle of evidence that Lord Salisbury will not persist in his truculent preference for war with the United States over a submission of the main part of British Guiana's claims to an impartial tribunal. We shall then have a great war upon our hands, and we pity the Senator or the Representative whom the people shall hold responsible for wasting the precious months, every hour of which should have been spent in strenuous preparation.

A Misstatement Corrected.

The Hon. GALUSHA A. GROW has performed a public service in calling attention to the following inexcusable assertion "in a pamphlet issued by the New York Chamber of Commerce relating to disputes between the United States and Great Britain":

"Then came the seisure of Canadian scaling vessels by the United States in Behring Sea, which was arbi-trated, and about \$400,000 awarded to the Swners of the seized vessels, which has not been paid, owing to the failure of Congress to make an appropriation

Whether this statement was due to delib erate perversion of facts or simply to ignorance, it may be difficult to say: but in either case it is most discreditable. Although British and Canadian writers persistently speak of pecuniary damages as having been awarded by the Paris tribunal, it is well known in this country that neither \$400,-000 nor any other sum was awarded.

The Paris tribunal found that the United States had no ownership of the open waters of Behring Sea beyond the usual territorial limits, and possessed no such right of property in the Pribylov seal herd as had justified the seizure of the British pelagio sealers there. It further found that a specified list of vessels had been so seized, or else warned away from their occupations. But it fixed no amount of damages as due for these injuries and warnings, expressly leaving that matter for the two countries concerned. Mr. GRESHAM agreed with Sir JULIAN PAUNCEFOTE to pay \$425,000, as a lump sum, subject to the approval of Congress; but when, last winter, the matter came up, that body found our American agent, Mr. John W. Foster, on record as declaring that out of \$489,171 claimed originally by Great Britain, only \$81,818 stood on either an equitable or a legal basis for payment by us. The same ratio would have brought up the whole amount due England on her filed claims to about \$100,000, instend of the \$425,000 which Mr. GRESHAM

had agreed to pay. Now, whether Mr. GRESHAM overestimated or whether Mr. FOSTER underestimated the sum that ought to be fixed upon. the plainduty of Congress was, not to grant the money without examination; and Secretary OLNEY has been lately arranging for

that examination by a joint Commission. This is the state of the facts which the publication quoted by Mr. Grow, either from ignorance or malice, misstates, and that, too, not in defence of our country, but with a view to accusing it of dishonorable conduct and of a breach of faith. It prefers stration of feminine preference and boasts his own initiation and contrivance. to take, instead of American knowledge on this subject. British perversion of the truth. its assertion being merely an echo of what it has found in the British press for the last year, which was repeated as late as last Thursday in the London Globe's declaration that "to this day the Americans have not carried out the Behring Sea award."

Mr. Platt on Dr. Parkhurst.

Mr. PLATT, having been asked to reply to Dr. PARKHURST's assaults on him as a very bad man, is reported to have answered that all he has to say is that he hopes his friend. the Doctor, will manage to keep out of the lunatic asylum.

The whole PARKHURST movement, from its beginning to its end, for its end has been reached, was hysterical and the result of mental and moral perversion. PARKHURST entered upon it under an impulse which was not far removed from insanity. Vice and wickedness existed in this town as they exist everywhere, even in the smallest ham let: but their public manifestation was repressed by the police, so that they were less prominent than in any other of the great cities of the world. An unfortunate and discreditable incident of the practical en forcement of these measures of repression was that there had grown up a sort of police license of disreputable resorts on the condition that actual order was preserved in them. License by the State was opposed by public sentiment; but this irregular and illicit license by the police was tacitly accepted and overlooked by the publie as an avil which, after all, was productive of good results, attainable, perhaps, in no other way. That the system had existed for many years was no secret It was generally understood that such houses paid for police protection, so long as they kept within the limits of outward propriety. Nothing can be said in justification of such exactions. They corrupt the police, even if they prevent the flaunting of vice and its criminal expression; but generally wherever that vice is not licensed by the State, the women who practise it are liable to police extertion.

The question of the proper remedy for so great a scandal as this illicit police license deserved the gravest and wisest discussion and such discussion it had received both here and abroad. It arises as a pernicious consequence of an evil which has afflicted society from its earliest organization, for the remedy of which no effectual preventive and curative measures have yet been discov ered and applied. It is the most serious and puzzling of all social questions.

Apparently Dr. PARKHURST had given the subject little thought until he was made President of the Society for the Prevention of Crime as the successor of the late Dr. HOWARD CROSBY. Then his sensaerent preparation has been vehemently | tional and theatric temperament saw in this pushed at St. Lucia and Vancouver, at Ber- | evil and its treatment by the police a chance to make a stir. He disguised himland, at every one of the continental and | self and went about visiting houses of ill insular coigns of vantage from which a fame and observing indecent performances British enemy might threaten us. There is of their inmates which he had provoked by offering to pay for them. His excuse was den and boastful exhibition of a hugo naval | that he wanted to obtain of himself indis-

utable evidence of the character of the places in order to expose the system of illigit police license. His pretext was that his hiring of women to make rile exhibitions was necessary to destroy that system. The police excuse was that the system was necessary to protect society against the shameless public exhibition of vice. They contended that by permitting the existence of such places as were visited by PARKHURST they guarded the public decency, since they confined the vice and kept it within the limits of privacy. That policy had been so long employed and was so generally understood that there was no need of exposing it in the way adopted by PARKHURST. The best means of overcoming its mischlevous consequences, perhaps by the substitution of legal measures for the protection of public decency, might have been considered calmly; but PARKHURST went at it like a wild man. Undoubtedly the victous and wholly reprehensible police license accomplished certain results which were desirable. It kept New York outwardly decent, and it confined vice to places under police supervision. Its principle, of course, was indefensible, utterly vile, and pernicious, but no more so than the pretext on which the Presbyterian parson plunged into vice. The police took pay for licensing vice. PARKHURST gave pay to incite its exhibition. PARKHURST made a great noise, and his

vanity was gratified; but the evil against which he directed his sensational demonstration continued to be as firmly intrenched as ever in the social organization. In lieu of legal regulation of the vice there will continue to be police regulation. He attacked the evil only superficially; but his theatricexhibition attracted the curiosity and aroused the attention of the public until he began to think that he was a great man and was primarily essential to the purification of the town. He made himself the Boss of Reform, lecturing the Chamber of Commerce and castigating the Legislature, the Mayor, and any public officers who did not take his commands. He lost his head utterly, and when the last election proved to him that the people did not take him at his own estimate, he fell into deep despondency. Now PARKHURST talks as if the bottom had fallen out of things, though really nothing has happened except that he has dropped into his proper relative place. Mr. Platt's hope that he will keep out of the lunatic asylum will undoubtedly be fulfilled, for his chances of recovering his sanity are now far better than they were in the days of his inflation.

Leap Year and Its Privilege.

This year will be made memorable by the occurrence of the twenty-eighth election of the President of the United States. It has opened also with threats and dangers of war in both the New and the Old World; but it has a further and a sentimental distinction which in these days more especially gives to it special interest. The year 1896 is leap year, when, according to tradition, it is permissible for women to make proposals of marriage to men, instead of waiting, as in ordinary years, for the men to propound to them the momentous question.

How far women actually take advantage of this opportunity afforded by leap year is not discoverable from statistics, nor can it be found out in any other way open to the philosopher. Matters of that sort are of a delicacy which prevents all self-respecting men and women from relating publicly the details of their occurrence. We read in novels and see upon the stage specimens and methods of lovemaking and marriage proposals, but they are imaginary and fictitious. The particulars of the betrothal of men and women in actual life are not disclosed for the satisfaction of vulgar curiosity. Hence, whether the proposal is ever made formally by the woman rather than the man, and, if the inversion of the usual method of procedure occurs, how often it takes place, cannot be known. A man who receives such a flattering demonof it, or otherwise violates the sacred confidence in which such a confession was made, is a wholly contemptible fellow, whose word no one would take.

A letter from a young woman of Poughkeepsie, published in THE SUN the other day, suggests, however, that the traditional privilege enjoyed by women in leap year is seriously regarded by some, if not many, of them, for the writer must be taken as representative of feminine feeling to a greater or less extent. Four years ago she looked on leap year with amusement only, she says. It never occurred to her to improve its peculiar privilege; but now, at the graver age of twenty-eight, she acknowledges, it no longer "seems funny to her." She is disposed to take advantage of the liberty of proposing marringe which it allows her. She is willing herself to propound the momentous ques tion, but she asks us for counsel as to the proper, advisable, and most probably successful method of doing it. She wants to know whether she should beat around the bush or put the question directly and plumply, and if there is not danger that in case the man rejected her proposal he would outrage her feelings and betray sacred confidence by telling of her revelation.

We are obliged to confess that there is that danger, so far as concerns many men. The novelty of the proceeding might induce them to describe it. The probability also is that for the same reason she would be more likely to suffer the mortification of a rejection than to enjoy the satisfaction of an acceptance. Long custom and the very nature of man induce in him a preference for taking the lead on such an occasion, according to his own fallacious conception. He desires to appear to himself as the active love maker. He wants to feel that he has conquered the heart of the girl in an engagement in which he was the aggressor. Practically he deceives himself. Instead of winning a heart he loses a heart. The final proposal does not come from the woman, but the affection which provoked it was cultivated and stimulated by her. Love first warmed her heart, and, with feminine art inherited from EVE herself and brought to the highest, finest, and most delicate perfection during the many thousands of years of its cultivation by women, she kindles a responsive emotion in his breast. Thus it may be said that both in leap year and in all years women virtually make the proposal. They lead up to it. They incite They arrange the circumstances favorable for it. They smooth the way to it. They suggest it to the man, unless he be a conceited fellow so far confident of his supposed fascinations that he invites his deserved rejection by thrusting his unwelcome advances on the woman. The mother of a girl will often assist her in this warfare on a masculine heart, employing in her be-

half the most consummate strategy. This is not at all discreditable to women. It casts upon them no injurious reflection. It is rather a glorious tribute to them. They are the source and fountain of the tenderest and most ennobling sentiment which controls mankind. They give to ex-

stence a poetical color. Nor do we mean to imply that consciously and deliberately they set out to provoke a proposal. They only fol-low instinct and obey the law of their being without studied consideration of the methods they pursue, unless they be veterans at the business in whom artifice has come to dominate nature. They cannot help it. They are made so. In the field of love they are the real conquerors. Men may delude themselves with the notion that they are the winners, but really they are the vanquished. Instead of pursuing they are the led. Instead of being primary they are only secondary in that gentle quest and encounter. Women have the mastery there and not men. The captives are men and not women. The victory is the woman's and not the man's. After his subjugation the man has the privilege of pleading for mercy, and, thank Gop! he gets it from feminine grace, little as he may be deserving of it. He can only plead, but the woman compels. She is master of the situation which he imagines is controlled by himself alone. Usually, when a woman picks out a man for a husband, her husband he is bound to be; and she does not need to ask him to take the place either. She makes him ask her to be his wife. She does not give up that advantage, but requires that the formal suing shall be done by him. She does not ask for a favor, but graciously grants to him the desire which she has awakened in his heart for the pur-

pose of gratifying it. We counsel our fair Poughkeepsie correspondent, therefore, that she will surrender a priceless feminine privilege if she permits that advantage to pass over to a man. Keep men in their proper place, JUDITH, whether it be leap year or any other year. If women transform them from suppliants into arbiters of their fate, they will grow arrogant when they should be humble. Don't give them the chance to refuse your overtures. Hold that point of advantage yourselves, we say to women. Make them surrender and then deal with them as your merciful hearts dictate. If they will not come to terms under the captivation of your charms, they will not be likely to yield to your spoken proposal of marriage. It would also flatter them too much. They would get a wholly false conception of their actual relative place with reference to women. Make them do the proposing. Let the confession of subjugation and the plea for mercy come from them, while you wait, no matter how impatiently, to bestow upon them the rich guerdon of your glowing hearts.

The Coil Tightens.

The expression "the coil tightens" ought to be well understood even by Sheriffs in New York State, for prior to the application of electricity as a substitute for the rope, the superintendence of executions devolved upon those officials. Ignorant, therefore, of the English language, and of the forms and usages of official life in the United States, as Damsen has shown himself to be, he can understand, probably, the meaning of the phrase "the coil tightens" as he reads, or has translated for his benefit and instruction, the communication of Governor Mon-TON, under date of Jan. 17, in Albany. This communication, which is of an official character, contains as its essential feature this explicit order to the Holstein Landvogt: "You are therefore required to show cause why you should not be removed from the office of Sheriff of

the city and county of New York, and to answer said charges within eight days." The charges to which Governor MORTOS refers are those filed with him on Nov. 19 by Mr. HENRY GRASSE and his associate taxpayers, and include reference not only to the escape of prisoners from DAMsex's custody from time to time, but also accusations of overcharges by his auctioneer's combine, flagrant and repeated errors in the service of jury notices, and errors and blunders of various kinds, some of them usual among delinquent or incompetent officials, but a larger number being. so to speak, original with Damsen and of it is a set of lineaments compared with

rid of a ludicrously unworthy Sheriff on de mand of the people of the county, at whose expense his errors are committed, is as folows: Written charges of delinquency are filed with the Governor of the State, who has exclusive and summary jurisdiction in the matter. The Governor inquires into the validity of these charges, and then, if satisfied of their gennineness, sends such notice as Governor Monton has sent to DAMSEN. A specified time is given to the accused official to file his defence in writing, if he has one, and then, usually, a Commission is appointed by the Governor to take testimony in the matter and report. If these prove the Sheriff guilty, the Governor, in conformity with the provisions of the State Constitution, removes him and appoints another in his place.

The case of DAMSEN deserves the patient and discriminating attention of all reformers. He has been in office little more than one year, and in that time he has been sum moned to the bar of the Court of Over and Terminer for contempt of court, a presentment has been found against him and his methods by the Federal Grand Jury, he has been indicted on two counts by the local Grand Jury, and tried on one with a disagreement of the jury, the case still pending; and he has now been summoned to answer charges filed with the Governor, and to show cause, if he can, in either English or Plattdeutsch, why he should not be removed from the office of the Sheriff. Never before in this town has there been such s grotesque failure in office as E. J. H. DAMSEN has made as Sheriff; and in justice (Gerechtigkeit) to the other Holsteiners in town, he should resign before the expiration of the eight days referred to in the notice of Governor MORTON.

Congressman Bartlett's Victory.

After being made the target of attack and abuse for his determined opposition to further enlargement of the pension laws, Congressman FRANKLIN BARTLETT on

Friday won a decided triumph. Under the rules of the House new legisla tion must not be introduced into a general appropriation bill unless it tends to reduce expenses. The provision of the annual pension bill, to which we called attention the other day, giving pensions not only to widows dependent on their daily labor as now, but also to those who have \$500 or less of "net income" nually, was clearly a violation of the rules. Mr. BARTLETT raised the point of order against it, and the objection was sustained. He used the same weapon against many other provisions that changed exist ing law without promoting economy, and they, too, went down.

It only remains now for the Senate to do ts part toward preventing the enlargement of the pension laws. They are liberal and adequate as they stand. Individual cases of exceptional hardship or inequality can be taken up by the Pension committees of Congress, so that the citation of such in debate should not be made a chusetts cities is spent in dosing the other city

reason for setting aside proper admin-istrative rules and rules of evidence. Laws which call for \$140,000,000 or more of pension money every year, are generous enough in the present condition of the Treasury. And whatever that condition. measures such as Mr. BARTLETT defeated in the House by invoking the legislative rules, which their advocates sought to set

aside, ought never to pass. Mr. BARTLETT made no attempt and had no desire to cut down the amount of money carried by the bill. It remained as originally reported to the committee, \$141,825,820, of which \$140,000,-000, or the same amount as last year, is to go to the pensioners, and the rest to administrative expenses. Earlier despatches led to an incorrect statement on this point. The appropriation, though very great, seems to be necessary under existing aws, and the one thing needful is to check the enlargement of those laws

For the Doctrine of America.

The report that the Senate will on Monday affirm the MONROE doctrine in language so direct and comprehensive that all possi bility of misinterpreting it shall be forever precluded, has led to numerous remarks that the Senate will not merely out-CLEVE-LAND CLEVELAND, but will step beyond the lines drawn for our international guidance by President MONROE. The latter notion is baseless, for the reason that it is beyond the power of the Senate to do the deed. The MONROE doctrine cannot be broadened nor enlarged at any point in its aim and effect, for the reason that it covers the entire field of foreign aggression upon this continent.

" The American continents are henceforth not to be considered as subjects for future colonization by any European power. It is impossible that we should behold foreign interposition in any form with indifference."

These were Monroe's words. Henr Jer-FERSON now, as MONROE heard him and heeded him before his famous message was promulgated:

" We must oppose with all our means the transfer of the South American colonies to any power by conquest, cession, or acquisition in any other way."

This is the American doctrine. It came into existence on the Fourth of July, 1776. It was first laid before the world in the name of the United States on Dec. 2, 1823. It is good because it is complete. It cannot be made stronger in intent and any variation of it in the way of limitation would make such a hole in it that it would be left practically worthless. The American Congress cannot add a jot or tittle to it. They can only put it into such explaining language that a running man may read it; and now is the time.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Providence Journal, apologizes with due humility and the finest-frilled urbanity for having called the Hon, MELVILLE BULL, the Beauty of the House of Representatives and the handsomest man in the Fifty-fourth Congress, or that ever sat in any Congress, "the Congressman from the Second Rhode Island district." He comes from the First district. To say that he hails from the Second was about as bad an error as would be to say that Gen. GEORGE WASHINGTON was a native of Wyoming or the Hon. JOHN LAWRENCE SULLIVAN WAS born in Olneyville. Our contemporary regrets its error, however, and joys in the pride which dilates the chest of Rhode Island at the thought that Mr. Bull, is not only the "handson est of the Rhode Island quartet now in Wash-ington, but has been declared by competent authority to be by far the best-looking man i the National House of Representatives;" and it prints a portrait of "the Aponts of the House." Of course the portrait is somewhat of a disap pointment, however meritorious it may be considered by those who know how futile it is to transplant into black and white the charm of color and expression, and all the shifting and many-hued lights of loveliness. The architecture, the general lines of Mr. Bull's counte nance, are here presented, indeed, but the expression is too stern. Yet, even as it stands, which the mug of the Hon. JOEL PERDICCAS The legal and approved method for getting | HEATWOLE of Minnesota, a person whose sup posed pulchritude is loudly celebrated by injudicious poets in his own State, is but a Gorgon or a thing to stop a clock and scare a trolley. What must be the original, when even the counterfeit has such a plethora of charm?

> Our religious contemporary, the Independent, takes occasion, in reviewing the affairs of the year, to express its satisfaction with the growth of religion in the United States. There was a great inc: ease in the number of churches, clergymen, and communicants in 1895, and the year has given no occasion for groaning over the "decline of faith." There has been spiritual progress in all the States; the churches have become more aggressive everywhere; the boasting of the enemy is unjustifiable; and, though the devil is yet rampant, his face is overcast. The nost striking thing in the Independent's survey is its statement of the religious advancement dur ing the past five years. Since 1800 there has been an increase of churches in the United States to he number of 19,000; an increase of pastors to that of 16,000, and an increase of communi cants to that of 3,500,000. These are, indeed, marvellous facts. They prove that neither the arguments of unbelieving men of science nor the speeches of scoffers at religion have had much effect upon the American mind. We do not believe that in any other country

> in the world has there been a religious development so great as that in the United States, of which we read in the Independent.

> The recent discovery of an authentic nanuscript of "The Sword of Moses," one of the most ancient works in Kabbalistic literature, will interest all students of the mystical philosophism of the Kabbalah. There is a reference to it in one of the responses of Rabbi SAADIAR GAON, who flourished in Babylonia in the tenth century of our era, and was one of the earliest commentators upon "The Book of Creation," another classic in Kabbalistic scholarship, earlier than "The Book of Light." It is probable that all of these works, as they now exist, were of a later period than some commentators have thought; but they undoubtedly grew out of traditions of the highest antiquity, going back very likely even to the time of the atriarchs. The researches of Hebrew scholars in these times are of peculiar value by reason of heir bearing upon the origin of sundry religious mysteries.

The Mayor of Springfield seems to be rare bird among Mayors and statesmen and officials of high degree. He has informed the world, or at least that important part of it which is salubriously situated near Agawam, that he is not going to feed in public any more than he can help. He proposes to "conserv his strength by declining to take part in ban quets." Of course he is the best judge of his own strength and of the character of the dinners which he is likely to be asked to eat. Going to dinners and making speeches at them has become almost the principal duty of high public officers. Mayor STRONG, for instance, is not often absent from the public social board, but he has special means of conserving his strength by means of ea and Young Hyson. The chances are that the Mayor of Springfield is profoundly sus picious of the cooking of that town. It must b admitted that the Massachusetts habit of din ing in the middle of the day, and following a hasty ingurgitation of indigestibles with many hours and miles of oratory, seems ill calculated to promote the pursuit of happiness. Indeed, much f the time of the City Physician in the Massa

officers and enabling them to survive banquets. The present Mayor of Springfield must be either a valetudinarian or a reformer. It is doubtful wever, if he is justified in refusing to foll the example of his predecessors. The people of Springfield have a right to expect faithful ser vice from him; and no matter what woes of the liver or degenerations of the stomach the dinners of Springfield may bring upon him, he

should face them like a man. And yet there

are bills of fare more dangerous than dynamite

The Mormons of Utah, always zealous in the propagation of their religion, seem to be sed of more zeal than ever before. They have a large number of missionaries on duty, all of whom are required to pick up a living as they go along. A favorite field for service is the South, where there are said to be 250 of them, and where they often get into trouble. The Eastern allotment is to be reenforced, and the Western supply is always busy. They gather in a good number of converts, too, most of whom seek homes in Utah, the chosen abode of the "Saints." The subject of polygamy is ignored by the missionaries.

There is no barrier in the way of people who want to become Mormons, All their rights are guaranteed, and they are under the protection of the law. The religion of Mormonism contains some good moral principles.

The Hon. W. J. H. TRAINER, who bear up as best he can under the title of Supreme President of the American Protective Associa tion, has found time to inform the world that if the United States had been a Papal country and the Pope a temporal sovereign, our President could not have given more recognition to the Papacy as a temporal power than he has during his present term of office," and that the Hon. WILLIAM BOYD ALLISON and the Hon, TROMAS BRACKETT REED have been guilty of a "propapal attitude." The Supreme President names a number of persons whom he would approve as candidates for President, including, for no evident reason, the Hon, BENJAMIN HARRISON and the Hon, WILLIAM O'CONNELL BRADLEY. The S. P. should revise and reverse himself. He will find Mr. HARRISON no less and no more "pro-papal" then Mr. REED and Mr. ALLISON. The banner which he should sling to the breezes should bear the names of W. J. H. TRAINER and HENRY W. BLAIR for President and Vice-President, or the reverse, respectively. BLAIR can tell TRAINER things, especially about the Jesuits in the newspaper offices. The two men would make a great million crank power team.

Supreme President THAINER is an interesting chap. We should like to have a photograph of the inside of his head in motion.

WAGNER.

Balcony Speaks to Orchestra Circle and Boxholder.

To the Editor of The Sun-Sir: As the Wagner question has been discussed in your columns by "Boxholder" and "Orchestra Cir-cle," perhaps you might not object to hearing from another part of the house. "Boxholder seems to state the case accurately, and it is difficult to see how "Orchestra Circle" meets the criticisms advanced.

The Wagner drama is like a huge box of sawdust with a few diamonds. One tolerates the sawdust for the sake of the diamonds, but after

sawdust for the sake of the diamonds, but after a while he cannot help wondering why the diamonds might not have more appropriate settings. The dominant emotion in the Wagner drama is love, and this is appropriate enough, but not when it is analyzed to a morbid extent, as we find it in Wagner.

The chief excellence in the Wagnerian music drama, so called, is the stage setting, and the carpenter is an important functionary. The great defect of the music is the straining for effect. Now each of the leading singers of the Metropolitan Opera House company might select addifferent piece from the Wagner dramas. If the management would arrange a concert in which the singers would give their distinct selections simultaneously it would certainly produce an effect—perhaps a trifle distracting. This is a possibility suggested by the left medif, the Wagner idea. Wagner enthusiasts should read Nordau.

New York, Jan. 17. were a débutante dinner given by Mr. Peter

NEW YORK, Jan. 17.

STRONG FOR OUR OWN. Stand for the Monroe Doctrine, Sava

Leading Organ of Presbyteriantsm. From the New York Assembly Herald. The editorial utterances of the Assembly Herald are, as a rule, confined to questions of the needs and methods of the benevolent work of the Presbyterian Church, and to topics connected with the propagation of Christianity in other lands. But when questions of great public moment are before the people, such for instance as the crisis in our relations with Eng land, we conceive it to be the duty of every jour of whatever character, to make such contribution as it may to the right shaping of public opinion.

We believe that the present situation of the Venezuelan matter is fraught with consequences for gen-erations of future American history. The cheap rhetoric so freely expended by some writers and speakers in contrasting the value of a few square niles of land in South America with the importance of peace between the two foremost nations of the earth, is entirely aside from the mark. For us the question at issue is the larger one whether in the event of a foreign power attempting to extend its dominion anywhere on this hemisphere the United States have the right to profest and to make their protest effective?

It surely ought to be borne in mind as the most ob-lous of facts that in such emergencies as the two branches of our Government were confronted with two weeks ago all hesitating or negative action is positive action of the most serious nature. It is say-ing in the most unmistakable manner: "We are not sure of ourselves or of our people. There has been more or less bluster and buncombe in our assertion of the Monroe dectrine. Perhaps, after all, if pushed to the point of decision, we wouldn't maintain it with our fortunes and our lives. At all events we'll wat to see how stocks are affected, lest we have to pay too large a price for national honor." Such a course would have only given the strategic advantage in any further diplomatic intercourse to our opponent; it would have made it more—not less—difficult—hereafter to reassert and maintain a position once, though but—momentarily, abandoned or weakly supported. And it could by no possibility conduce to peace. For the American people—such is our firm fairh—would, in the event of necessity, resist by all means in their power all allenation of territory in the south to a foreign power by whatever means effected. If this be not true, the our insistence upon the Monroe doctrine during all these past years in which it has been effectively naintained is only the most collossal piece of Ameri can humbug ever presented as a spectacle to the world. It was all "bluff"—unless, indeed, our fathers were made of better stuff than their degenerate sons. For ourselves personally, we confess to an almos passionate love for Old England-her hallowed scene her noble people, her grand institutions and we have always regarded those who would foment mutual hatred between these peoples as guilty of moral in-cendarism. But, since God created families on the earth, the way to keep peace and love between prothers has never been by tolerating injustice or aggression of one upon another; and it is not now the way to keep peace with our brethren over the sea to leave them under any shadow of doubt as to our sure course of conduct in the event-improbable as we believe it to be—of our being forced to make good the

unvarying claims of our policy of state for two The British Organ in New York.

To THE POSTOR OF THE SUN -Sir : That the Evenin Post has long been anti-American is well known but until recently I had supposed Godkin was simply a chronic fault finder, a renegade Irishman with Eng ish leanings. This idea, however, is no longer tous ble, and the Post and Godkin must be coassed where

they properly belong.

Are we not fortunate to have here in New York an English daily paper to give us the British side of all questions? And who could or would fill so case a po-sition as well as Godkin does? American,

> Caucasian Superiority. I row the Baltimore Sun.

"For social, beneficial, and altruistic purposes" is the motto of the Coachman's Club of Baltimore, which is being organized by the veteran and expert ichus of private turnouts. The name is to distinguis the organization from an existing conchinan's club of colored drivers, which is said to be formed solely for social purposes and does not deal in altruism.

His Wife Might Object.

From the Troy Dully Press.
Why, indeed, should a woman not tell a man that he loves him if she does ? In the Interest of Peace,

From the Minnea polis Times. Speaking of Schomburgk, why not draw the line at A General Truth in Four Words

From the Troy Dally Press.

annexation always accelerates advan-

WHAT IS GOING ON IN SOCIETY.

The best week of the season began last Monday with a dance at Mrs. Ogden Mills's picturesque residence in Staty-fifth street. It followed so promptly upon Mrs. Mills's arrival from Europe that every one of her friends feit it to be a special act of hospitality extended to himself or her-olf, and the general good feeling that pre-valled added not a little to the enjoyment of the evening. Every one wondered whether Mrs. Mills had cabled over in advance her arrangements and directions for beautifying and arranging her rooms. Every woman looked her very best, and every club and society man pres-ent entered into the spirit of the occasion.

The Tuesday evening dances are now in their fourth season, and continue to maintain the reputation with which they started, of being the most successful subscription balls of the year. Everything about them, from ballroom decora-tion to gowns and faces, is always of the freshest and brightest, and there is a general feeling among debutantes that a spick-and-span new ball dress must be reserved for a Tuesday even-ing dance. The Reception Committee for last Tuesday evening was as attractive as the scene to which they were the ushers. Mrs. Aston, Mrs. Minturn, Mrs. Mortimer, and Mrs. Ladenburg made a gracious and graceful group, and the fashion of the winter, which runs to an excess of color and glitter in woman's attire, made the ballroom very showy. Mrs. J. J. Astor wore white satin covered with a network of silver embroidery interspersed with brilliants, but her display did not begin to compare in gorgeousness with Mrs. W. Starr Miller's tulle gown, entirely covered with gold and silver spangles, with scarlet flowers on her shoulder, and the same brilliant color in her hair. A beautiful cotillon was led by Elisha Dyer, Jr., and the supper arrangements were of the best. At the wedding of Miss Tailer and Mr. Trowbridge, on Thursday, Grace Church vindicated

its old-time reputation of being the most decorative and picturesque of any similar edifice in New York for marriage celebrations. The tide has drifted of late toward St. Thomas's, on the plea that cable cars and incessant traffic put Grace Church beyond the pale for fashionable ceremonials. No impediments, however, were apparent on Thursday, and never did the old church look more beautiful. Christmas decorations mingled with stately palms and bridal flowers, and the sunlight streamed through the stained-glass windows upon lovely faces and smart costumes after the most effective fashion. The only bridesmaid, Miss Amy Bend, looked lovely in white, with a dark velvet hat, and the bride herself was regally handsome in her rich wedding gown and vell of old point lace most becomingly arranged. A pretty feature of the wedding was the surpliced choir, which preceded the bridal party up and down the aisle, and gave interest and sentiment to the ceremony.

It was pleasant to Mrs. Astor's friends to enter her sumptuous new dining room in the marble mausion at Fifth avenue and Sixtyfourth street on Thursday evening and see the long table spread with the familiar gold service and blooming with the hostess's favorite American Beauty roses, while the fine tapestries which had adorned the walls of the old house were glowing with renewed beauty in panels of ebony and gold. Twenty-six (Mrs. Astor's favorite number) of her old friends were gathered about the board, and there was just a touch of sentiment in the satisfaction they all expressed in being again assembled under the roof of their friend and hostess, and amid the new and sumptuous surroundings, which had just enough of old-time flavor to give them mellowness and dignity. All the glories and beauties of Mrs. Astor's new residence will be disclosed at a large reception that she wffl give on the 27th, and also at a ball that is promised in February, after which, and a few more dinners, Mrs. Astor will sail for Europe and occupy the handsome apartment she has furnished in Paris. Other entertainments of Thursday evening

Marié at his new home up town, preceding the Cinderella dance, which was well attended, and where many lovely girls danced vigorously until the mystic hour brought their pleasure to a close, and the second meeting of the Thursday Evening Club at Mrs. John W. Minturn's in Washington square. The club was entertained by Professor Peary, who gave an interesting account of his experiences in the Arctic regions, illustrated by stereopticon views and photographs taken on the spot. The attendance was unusually large. but the rooms in the old-fashioned houses on Washington square are good places for crowds, and when the lights were turned on after the exhibition there was found to be a very gay assemblage of matrons and maidens. The cheerfulness and warmtn of the scene seemed to enhance the enjoyment of the audience after the desolation upon which they had been gazing. The engage Biarritz, where the wedding will take place, of Miss Florence Little, daughter of Lieut, Wil liam McCarty Little, to Mr. E. D. Roit of Roston. The engagement of Miss Elizabeth Howard Ward, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Wren Ward, and granddaughter of Mr. Samuel Ward of Boston, to Mr. Charles Bruen Perkins, also of Boston, has been again announced. Miss Ward's grandmother was formerly Miss Anna Barker,

as has been incorrectly mentioned. Studio teas and vaudeville afternoons and evenings are coming prominently to the front again, although they are generally reserved for the austere season of Lent. Mr. James L. Breese entertained a large number at his studio few days since, when music and character sketches were given with good effect. On Sunday evenings Mr. and Mrs. De Koven and Dr. and Mrs. Helbrook Curtis provide good music and occasionally sensational dancing at their houses. As the music hall performers seem to grow in popularity, lovers of this kind of amuse ment should be congratulated upon the expected arrival of Mr. Albert Chevaller, the prince of music hall singers, who, in spite of his Whitechapel slang, has so much pathos in his notes and gestures that he touches the heart. even if he sometimes offends the taste.

a very noted beauty of her day, but she is in no

way related to the well-known Sam Ward or to

his sister, the venerable Mrs. Julia Ward Howe.

Agrarian laws and socialistic combinations will soon become unneccessary to bring rich and poor to a common level if the enterprising burglar is to wark unmolested through the land. Mrs. Burden's loss was a heavy one, and so was Mr. James L. Kernochan's. Robberies have been frequent of late in the neighborhood of Hempstead and Meadowbrook, where the restdents are known to be rich and where tempting silver is probably exposed to the gaze of trampe and onlookers upon the occasion of every dinner party and hunt breakfast. If the police are to be believed, it would be well for masters and mistresses to keep an eye upon their valuables. The death of Mr. Robert G. Remsen removes a landmark of more than half a century from club and social life. He was the last survivor of the patriarchal associatio

familiar figure for years at the Union and other clubs, a man of a very striking person-ality and with hosts of warm and attached friends. The men and women of his generation are passing so rapidly away and their places being filled by others who are already in the nounday of life that the outside world hardly misses them as they fall into rank with the outgoing procession of pilgrims to other spheres, but in the circle of his home life and intimate friends, the removal of Mr. Remsen's active intelligence, open-handed generosity, and kindly nature leaves a gap that never can be filled. In order to put at rest the reports of the great

sums of money said to have been spent in repairing Bienheim Palace by the Dowager Duchess of Mariborough, formerly Mrs. Hamersley, the Duke of Mariborough has authorized the publication of a report made to him by a chartered public accountant who examined his tirace's books. This sets forth the leading items of expenditure, and shows that during the last ten years the whole of the improvements to the palace and gardens were paid for out of the capital sum of £310,740, the proceeds of a sale of the Sunderland library, and a portion of the Blenheim pictures, enamels, and china.

Prayer and Precept. From the Hedford Banner Democrat. "Dear God," prayed a little Church street maiden last evening, "make a good little girl out of me; and if at first you don't succeed, try, try again."